

# EYE ON IRAQ

September 23, 2005

The Iraqi people, with help from coalition nations, continue to succeed in reconstruction, economic development and fighting terrorism

## Multi-National forces capture key terror leaders in Mosul

Multi-National forces, acting on multiple intelligence sources and tips from local citizens, raided a suspected al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist location in southwest Mosul, Sept. 5, capturing the top al-Qaida leaders in the city.

Captured during the raid was Taha Ibrahim Yasin Becher, (aka Abu Fatima), the al-Qaida in Iraq's Emir of Mosul, and Hamed Sa'eed Ismael Mustafa, (aka Abu Shahed), the organization's West Mosul Emir.

Abu Fatima and Abu Shahed were in a meeting at the time of their capture.

Abu Fatima had recently taken over the role of Emir after Abu Talha was captured in June and Abu Zubayr, who replaced Talha, was killed in mid-August. Abu Fatima had only held the position for 12 days when he was captured.

Abu Fatima supervised and directed the day-to-day operations of the organization and was responsible for numerous attacks against Iraqi security and Coalition forces.

Abu Shahed was responsible for organizing al-Qaeda activities in western Mosul. He was responsible for attacks conducted in the area and also participated in attacks involving small arms and other weapons directed against Iraqi security and Coalition forces. As the leader of one of Mosul's territories he was in line to succeed Abu Fatima in the event of his death or capture.

The simultaneous capture of both leaders damages the organizational structure of al-Qaida in Iraq's northern network. Abu Fatima and Abu Shahed were both originally from Tall Afar prior to assuming their roles in Mosul. In the past, the Emir position had been filled by terrorists who were already operating in the Mosul area.



Taha Ibrahim Yasin Becher



Hamed Sa'eed Ismael Mustafa



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## **5,000 Iraqis a month headed for better health care in Ani Sifini after reconstruction**

The Iraqi Ministry of Health has coordinated reconstruction projects that will improve Health Care throughout Iraq. One project underway is the reconstruction of Al Shekhan General Hospital.

This project will improve medical care for the people in Ani Sifni with additional wings being added to increase the hospital's capabilities, to include a pharmacy, doctors' residence and lobby, as well as ward rooms and specialized doctors' offices.

This facility currently has 50-beds and provides care for about 5,000 patients a month, according to a hospital administrator. Recently, the hospital received a new, automatic X-ray film processing machine that processes the film in five minutes – 10 minutes faster than its predecessor.

The MOH is also implementing a variety of programs designed to benefit the population's health. To date, more than 2,500 primary health care providers and 700 physicians have received skills training. Many clinics and hospitals are constantly receiving vital supplies to treat patients. Women and children are receiving important immunizations to treat diseases that could prove deadly.



**Al Shekhan General Hospital under construction in Ani Sifini.**

An emergency polio immunization campaign was launched to prevent the resurgence of the disease. The campaign reached 4.7 million children in five days. 90 to 98 percent of the targeted children were vaccinated.

The ongoing improvement on Healthcare facilities will give health care personnel quality facilities to treat patients. Currently, construction is ongoing on 142 new Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities across Iraq.



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## Iraqi Security forces not deterred

Despite the many recent bombings, Iraqi Security Forces have not been deterred from their mission of making Iraq a safer place to live. The ISF continue to train new soldiers and policemen who are ready to serve the public and hunt down terrorists.

In Tal Afar earlier this week, 94 terrorists were captured in a single day. So far, more than 341 terrorists have been arrested and more than 22 caches of weapons have been confiscated and destroyed.

On Sept. 17, in Balad, security forces sighted several men digging on the side of the road, ready to plant a bomb for unsuspecting civilians passing by. Immediately, the ISF apprehended the men, placing them under arrest.

In Fallujah, soldiers patrolling the city captured three suspected terrorists, one of whom had been financially supporting terrorism throughout the city.



ISF securing the sites at the scene of recent car bombs.



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## Captured suicide bomber forced into mosque by terrorists

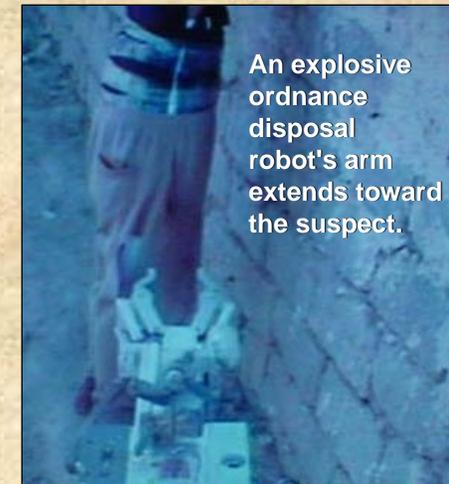
**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – The interrogation of a suicide bomber Sept. 16 revealed to Coalition forces that terrorists allegedly kidnapped, drugged, abused and forced the bomber to enter a mosque with the purpose of killing innocent Iraqi citizens during religious services.

The suspected Saudi expatriate and Iraqi citizen said he was kidnapped from a field near his home by terrorists in early September. The bomber stated he was blindfolded, tied up and placed in the trunk of a vehicle and transported through a series of safe houses before he was forced into the suicide bombing.

“The U.S. medical examination of the bomber is consistent with his story and characterization of his treatment,” said Col. Billy J. Buckner, spokesman for the Multi-National Corps.

The suicide bomber was transported by his captors to a mosque in Tuz, where he was told he would become a good Muslim and go to heaven if he carried out the task. The man said he did not want to enter the mosque before terrorists forced him to. The man then seized the opportunity to run out of the mosque while his captors were not paying attention. The man was apprehended by Iraqi police just moments after another suicide bomber detonated a bomb outside another mosque in the city.

“The kidnapping of this man further demonstrates the desperateness of AMZ and his ability to execute his strategy,” said Buckner. “He knows he can’t win against Iraqi security and Coalition forces and is therefore willing to use innocent Iraqi citizens to further his cause to disrupt the election process and prevent a free and democratic Iraq.”



An explosive ordnance disposal robot's arm extends toward the suspect.



The two halves of the vest worn by the suicide bomber suspect.



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